

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Virginia Emergency Operations Center
10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236

SPOT Report # 5 - FINAL
Appomattox Gas Pipe Line Explosion
18 September 2008, 1000 Hours

New Information in CAPS

Summary:

At 0818 hours, 14 September, the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) was notified by Appomattox County Emergency Coordinator of an explosion and fire on the Williams Energy Transco natural gas pipeline located near State Routes 26 and 460 in the County. Local, State and Federal agencies returned to the scene in the early hours of 15 September to continue damage assessments and investigation of the incident

Initial Damage Assessment:

- 2 homes destroyed; 4 homes minor damage
- 2 outbuildings damaged or destroyed
- 3 automobiles destroyed
- Route 26 damaged for several hundred yards

Casualties:

- 5 subjects injured; transported to local medical facility, treated and released on 14 September

Emergency Declarations:

- Appomattox County; declared Local Emergency 0930 hrs 14 September; Appomattox Local Emergency terminated 1800 hrs 15 September

VDEM / VEOC Actions:

- VDEM Region 3 Coordinator Cocker and VDEM Area 5 Hazmat Officer Collins responded and assisted local emergency services officials on 14 and 15 September and cleared incident on 15 September
- VDEM Technical Support Unit with staff and support vehicles responded at request of local officials at 1400 hrs 14 September to provide interoperable communications and cleared incident at 1630 hrs 15 September.

Local Actions:

- Appomattox County declared a local emergency at 0930 hrs 14 September and opened their EOC at 1136 hrs; local EOC closed at 1700 hrs 14 September and local emergency terminated at 1800 hrs 15 September

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- Residents allowed to return home on 15 September with exception of three houses in immediate area that have structural damage; Williams Energy providing lodging at local hotel
- Route 26 closed between Log Cabin Rd and Phelps Creek Rd;
PROJECTED REOPEN DATE 22 SEPTEMBER
- Central VA Electric Co-op completed power restoration on 16 September
- Williams Energy working with contractors and federal agencies and affected families on long term recovery efforts
- Williams Energy and Appomattox County held Town Hall Meetings on 15 and 16 September to address citizen concerns and issues; third meeting will be held prior to restart of pipelines
- Verizon installing temporary telephone line through affected area
- Request for Building Inspectors to assist with damage assessments transmitted via Statewide Mutual Aid on 16 September; **REQUEST FILLED BY CAMPBELL COUNTY THROUGH LOCAL MUTAL AID**

Other Actions:

- VDOT provided signs and barriers for traffic control; **VDOT INSEPECTION OF ROUTE 26 COMPLETED**
- USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Officials responded and completed investigation
- VDH Office of Drinking Water assisting locality reference issues on wells

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